

AN EYEGLASS DEVICE HAVING PRIMARY AND AUXILIARY SPECTACLE FRAMES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an eyeglass device having two pairs of glasses which are integrated together by placing one pair of glasses over the other pair of glasses.

We usually wear glasses intended to correct eyesight and sunglasses intended to protect the eyes from sunlight. In addition to these functions, glasses are used to provide wearers with ornamental effect. Generally it has been a common wearing method to wear only one pair of glasses at a time. Therefore, a pair of glasses could not cover the different functions two pairs of glasses provide.

2. Description of the Prior Art

In general, there are two types of glasses; one to correct impaired vision such as near sightedness or farsightedness, and the other to protect the eyes from the sun's rays. The latter case is sunglasses with coloured lenses shielding the sun's rays.

Nowadays, people wear glasses for non-functional purposes, for example, as an accessory to change the user's style and image. It is common to wear a single pair of glasses because no useful device has been available to people to wear both types of glasses at one time. While some users wear a single pair of glasses that both corrects vision and provides protection from the sun, i.e., prescription sunglasses, a second pair of corrective glasses is also necessary when the person goes indoors or out of the sun. Thus, the need for a single pair of glasses to fill both needs is not solved.

Double-layered glasses having one pair attached to another have been known in the art. A typical such assembly is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,070,103 to Meeker. In Meeker, a

spectacle frame includes a magnetic material secured to the peripheral portion for attachment of an auxiliary lens rim cover to the frame. The lens cover also includes a magnetic strip for engaging the magnetic material of the spectacle frame.

Another example is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,416,537 to Sadler, which comprises first magnetic members secured to the temporals of the frames and second magnetic members secured to the corresponding temporal portions of the auxiliary lenses.

In addition, U.S. Patent No. 5,568,207 to Chao discloses arms having magnetic elements extended rearward from the auxiliary lens for extending over and for engaging with corresponding magnetic elements in the upper portion of the primary spectacle frame.

In these examples of eyeglasses, the auxiliary lenses are simply attached to the frame by magnetic materials and, except for Chao, have no supporting members for preventing the auxiliary lenses from moving downward relative to the frames and may easily be disengaged from the frames when the users engage in mild physical activity. Chao adds arms for limiting slippage in the downward direction, but is not helpful preventing slippage in other directions, such as vertically or laterally, when the user engages in strenuous physical activity. The auxiliary lenses can still be easily dislodged through vibration or being bumped. Also, when the magnetic forces weaken, the auxiliary pair tends to easily disengage.

In order to solve this problem, the present inventor filed U.S. Application Serial No. 09/255,165, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,120,144. This invention was an outer pair of glasses attached to an inner pair by means of a magnet in conjunction with inter-locking hooks. However, that combination of glasses, although an improvement over the prior art, did not allow for the outer pair of glasses to be folded up. The present invention provides this capability as well as much improved attachment means.

There have been glasses similar to the present invention known in the prior art. However, these glasses had a shortcoming in the combining strength because the auxiliary glasses had one piece for magnetic insert in the magnet receiving portion. For dual glasses like the present invention, each pair of glasses is combined together by simply fitting them. If the fitting force is not strong enough, the auxiliary glasses are easily taken off from the primary glasses, causing a considerable inconvenience in using them.

The inventor has also filed application no. 98-16948 for a utility model of an eyeglass device similar to the present invention, which provides the effect of wearing two pairs of glasses together by placing one pair of glasses over the other pair of glasses. The prior invention relates to a dual eyeglass device of which both primary and auxiliary glasses have two permanent magnetic pieces, each being inserted into their bridges in order for them to be combined together.

As in the prior invention the primary and auxiliary glasses have permanent magnetic pieces on both ends of their bridges, the auxiliary glasses were easily detached from the primary glasses when a slight impact was applied or when they were shaken. The wearers could not enjoy sport or exercise with the auxiliary glasses combined with the primary glasses, and had to experience the auxiliary glasses being easily detached when the force of their magnetic pieces became weak.

To solve these problems, the inventor made another invention (Application for Utility Model No. 1999-2182). However, this invention could not completely solve such problems.

However, the present invention provides the auxiliary glasses having two magnet receiving pieces in order to enhance the combining strength. Accordingly, the present invention was made to completely make up for such problems. The eyeglass device according to the

present invention is designed to have the auxiliary glasses which have an excellent combining strength and can be folded up, providing a good wearing effect.

Thus, it is an object of the present invention to provide two functions to correct eyesight and to protect the eyes from sunlight.

Another object of the present invention is to provide the effect of wearing two pairs of glasses together by placing one pair of glasses over the other pair of glasses.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a fitting structure so that the auxiliary glasses cannot be easily taken off the primary glasses under shaking and vibration.

Summary of the Invention

The primary objective of the present invention is to provide a pair of glasses having auxiliary lenses with increased stability and security in being supported in attachment on the frame. Further, the objective of the present invention is to provide the convenience in being able to fold up the auxiliary lenses without having to remove them, thus creating a dual function for the combined pair of glasses.

In accordance with one aspect of the invention, there is provided an eyeglass device which is composed of a pair of primary glasses having comprising temples, frame, lenses; nose pads and a bridge, and a pair of auxiliary glasses also comprising a frame, lenses and a bridge. The auxiliary glasses are combined with the primary glasses by the use of a magnet, the primary glasses having insert slots formed in both temple pieces where a permanent magnetic piece is inserted, and the auxiliary glasses having combining portions comprising a hinge portion and a magnet receiving portion in between magnet receiving pieces of which a piece of the temple fixing portion of the primary glasses is inserted.

The present invention is characterized in that a magnet receiving portion formed in the primary glasses has two magnet receiving pieces in between which an insert piece of the primary glasses is inserted in order to improve the combining strength. The second characteristic of the present invention is that the auxiliary glasses can be folded up, therefore with no need for removal of the auxiliary glasses from the primary glasses.

Magnet receiving pieces are comprised of an insert slot formed in the inner side of both temple pieces of the primary glasses, and a permanent magnetic piece is inserted into an insert piece. Magnetic pieces are also inserted into magnet receiving pieces of the auxiliary glasses. By inserting the insert piece of the primary glasses in between the magnet receiving pieces of the auxiliary glasses, all the magnetic pieces come in contact with each other to maintain the combining force. Particularly, the magnet receiving piece of the auxiliary glasses is inserted tightly into the insert slot of the primary glasses to maintain the strong combined state without shaking.

The foldable function of the auxiliary glasses is created by the combining portion of the auxiliary glasses having a cylindrical hinge. The hinge has a spring and a ball in its inner side, to one end of which a foldable piece is connected by a pin. Accordingly the foldable piece is folded up centering around the pin and the folded state of the foldable piece is maintained by the spring and ball placed in the inner side of the cylindrical hinge portion.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of combined primary and auxiliary glasses;

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a partial enlarged perspective view of the essential portion of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a partial enlarged exploded perspective view of the essential portion of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a side view of the auxiliary glasses used in the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a side view showing the folded state of the auxiliary glasses used in the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a side view of combined primary and auxiliary glasses according to the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a side view showing the folded state of the auxiliary glasses according to the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the hinge portion of the auxiliary glasses; and

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view of the hinge portion of the auxiliary glasses.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Turning now to the drawings, there is illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2 the eyeglass device according to the present invention, which is composed of the primary glasses **10** comprising temples, frame, lenses; nose pads and bridge, and the auxiliary glasses **20** comprising frame, lenses and bridge. The auxiliary glasses **20** are combined with the primary glasses **10** by a magnet **14** (FIGS. 3 and 4), the primary glasses **10** having insert slots **12** formed in both temple fixing portions **11** where a permanent magnetic piece **14** is inserted into the insert piece **13**, and the auxiliary glasses **20** having both combining portions **21** comprising a hinge portion **22** and a magnet receiving portion **23** in between the magnet receiving pieces **24**, **25** of which an insert piece **13** of the temple fixing portion **11** of the primary glasses is inserted.

If the primary glasses **10** has dioptric lenses for correction of eyesight and the auxiliary glasses **20** have colored lenses, a wearer can obtain the effect of wearing both glasses for eyesight correction and sunglasses for protection of the eyes from sunlight.

The first characteristic of the present invention is that a magnet receiving portion **23** formed in the primary glasses **20** has two magnet receiving pieces **24, 25** in between which an insert piece **13** of the primary glasses is inserted in order to improve the combining strength. The second characteristic of the present invention is that the auxiliary glasses **20** can be folded up, therefore with no need for removal of the auxiliary glasses **20** from the primary glasses **10**.

Magnet receiving pieces **24, 25**, as the first characteristic of the present invention, are described as follows.

An insert slot **12** is formed in the inner side of both temple fixing portions **11** of the primary glasses, and a permanent magnetic piece **14** is inserted into an insert piece **13**. Magnetic pieces **26, 27** are also inserted into the magnet receiving pieces **24, 25** of the auxiliary glasses. By inserting the insert piece **13** of the primary glasses in between the magnet receiving piece pieces **24,25** of the auxiliary glasses **20**, magnetic pieces **14, 26, 27** come in contact with each other to maintain the combining force. Particularly, the magnet receiving piece **25** is inserted tightly into the insert slot **12** of the primary glasses to maintain the strong combined state without shaking.

Then, the foldable function of the auxiliary glasses is described as follows.

Referring to FIGS. 5, 6, 7 and 8, in the combining portion **21** (FIG. 4) of the auxiliary glasses, a cylindrical hinge portion **22** has a spring **28** and a ball **29** (*see* FIGS. 9 and 10) in its inner side, to one end of which a foldable piece **30** is connected by a pin **31** so as to be folded up (FIGS. 6 and 8). Accordingly the foldable piece **30** is folded up centering around the pin **31** and

the folded state of the foldable piece **20** is maintained by the spring **28** and ball **29** placed in the inner side of the cylindrical hinge portion **22**. In the prior art, the auxiliary glasses had to be removed from the primary glasses if not needed and to be kept aside. However, the present invention provides the same effect as if the auxiliary glasses were removed from the primary glasses by folding the auxiliary glasses up at the angle of 90 degrees.

The above description of the present invention covers both primary and auxiliary glasses with inserted magnetic pieces. However, the eyeglass device according to the present invention is able to maintain a high combining strength even with no inserted magnetic pieces because the auxiliary glasses have two magnet receiving pieces **24, 25**. Therefore, primary or auxiliary glasses may have no magnetic pieces or one or two magnetic pieces. In other words, the insertion of magnetic pieces is optional.

Advantages of the Invention

As the present invention is an eyeglass device comprising two pairs of glasses which are integrated together, it has a unique appearance enough to provide ornamental effect. It is also very easy to attach and detach the auxiliary glasses **20** to and from the primary glasses **20** with a simple operation. Especially the foldable auxiliary glasses **20** make it easier to use the eyeglass device.

If the primary glasses **10** have dioptric lenses for correction of eyesight and the auxiliary glasses **20** have colored glasses lenses for blocking off sunlight, even a person having bad eyesight can simply protect the eyes from sunlight and maintain corrected eyesight simultaneously.

Older people can also easily use the eyeglass device of the present invention by mounting dioptric lenses on both primary glasses **10** and auxiliary glasses **20**.

As described above, the present invention provides a very unique appearance so that a wearer looks fashionable while the invention functions as sunglasses and glasses for correction of eyesight by attaching or detaching the auxiliary glasses **20**, if necessary. As the auxiliary glasses **20** will not easily come off from the primary glasses **10** even when a wearer excessively moves or when an impact is applied, it is possible for the wearer to enjoy sport and exercise to the full.

While the present invention has been explained in relation to its preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that various modifications thereof will be apparent to those skilled in the art upon reading this specification. The invention disclosed herein is therefore intended to cover all such modifications that fall within the scope of the appended claims.